

Guard Against Machine Injuries

In a recent year, approximately 9,000 occupational injuries involving machines occurred in schools. These types of injuries can occur, so we need to work together to make our environment a safer and more healthful place.



Before you operate any machine you must be authorized and know how to operate it safely. An inspection of all equipment should be done before any machine is turned on. Items to be inspected prior to the operation of a machine will vary with the type of machine. Some items to check for include:

- Proper placement and good condition of machine guards
- Electric lines to see that they are not damaged.
- Air lines and hydraulic lines to see that they are in good condition and not leaking.
- Proper setup and operating speed of the machine.
- Material to be machined to see that it is properly secured to the machine.
- Cutting tools on the machine to see that they are sharp and properly secured in the tool holders.



Many machines have rotating parts, such as conveyor belts, spindles, chucks, saw blades and drills. Some machines also have pinch points, cutting action, punching action and shearing action. A machine operator needs to be familiar with these hazards and know how to operate the machine in order to avoid injury from these hazards.